ABBREVIATED PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

This checklist can be used to help the site investigator determine if an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) is warranted. This checklist should document the rationale for the decision on whether further steps in the site investigation process are required under CERCLA. Use additional sheets, if necessary.

Checklist Preparer: Caroline Tuero/Associate Project Scientist September 2020 (Date)

(Name/Title)

(732) 417-5869

205 Campus Drive, Edison, NJ 08837 (Address)

(Phone)

caroline.tuero@westonsolutions.com

(E-mail Address)

Site Name: Décor by Dene

Previous Names (if any): see below

Site Location: 2569 Shell Road

(Street)

Brooklyn, New York 11223

(ST) (City)

7192 (Block) (Lot)

Latitude: + 40.589256° **Longitude:** - 73.973631°

Describe the release (or potential release) and its probable nature:

The Décor by Dene (Dene) site consists of a decorative lighting manufacturer near Coney Island Creek in Brooklyn, NY. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) discovery of the Dene site occurred in 2020 during the Site Discovery Initiative associated with the Coney Island Creek site, which is considered to be a sediment plume with multiple possible sources of contamination. The Dene site is being evaluated as one of the possible sources. The subject property has been utilized for manufacturing activities since at least 1950 and has historically generated large quantities of electroplating waste. Dene's precise years of operation at the site are unknown, however, environmental databases list Dene as a generator of hazardous waste since 1988. The on-site building is currently subdivided into three retail/commercial storefronts (from north to south): a vacant storefront for lease; a dance studio; and ATS Lighting Inc. and Little Italy Furniture Liquidation Outlet. ATS Lighting Inc. is a manufacturer and distributor of lighting fixtures to which Dene appears to be the predecessor or alternate name (the ATS lighting website indicates the company was organized in 1985). The site is located in a mixed residential/commercial/light industrial area of Brooklyn. The former Dene facility is located approximately 2,500 feet (0.47 mile) north-northeast of Coney Island Creek. Appendix A includes a Site Location Map, Site Map, 4-Mile Radius Map, and 15-Mile Surface Water Pathway Map for the Dene site.

Dene's manufacturing process involved electroplating of metal surfaces. Electroplating involves depositing a thin layer of metal onto an oppositely charged substrate by passing an electric current through a solution called an electrolyte. When the electric current flows through the circuit, the electrolyte splits up and some of the metal atoms it contains are deposited in a thin layer on top of one of the electrodes. All the constituents of the plating baths contribute to the wastewater stream. Electroplating baths may contain cyanide and a variety of heavy metals, including arsenic, copper, nickel, gold, zinc, chromium (including hexavalent chromium), selenium, lead, or iron.

The Dene facility is listed as an active generator of hazardous waste under Handler ID No. NYR000022087. Current or former North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes/Descriptions for the facility include 335121/"Residential Electric Lighting Fixture Manufacturing" and 332813/"Electroplating, Plating, Polishing, Anodizing, and Coloring". Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) designations have varied over time: Small Quantity Generator (SQG) originally, until 1996; Large Quantity Generator (LQG) between 1997 and 2003; verified non-generator in 2004; SQG in 2006; and Conditionally

^{*} The site location coordinates were obtained from Google Earth.

Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG)/Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) since 2007. Biennial Reporting for 1997 and 2003 respectively indicated that Dene generated 6.15 and 5.1 tons of RCRA hazardous waste. Waste types generated at the facility have included corrosive wastes (D002), reactive waste (D003), spent nonhalogenated solvents (F003), wastewater treatment sludge from electroplating operations (F006), and spent cyanide plating bath solutions and residues (F007 and F008). No violations of RCRA are recorded for the facility in the EPA Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database, which presents a 5-year compliance history (i.e., 2015-2020).

Available Sanborn® Fire Insurance maps and aerial photography indicate that the northern portion of the on-site building was built sometime between 1930 and 1950, and that it was utilized as a furniture manufacture and lacquer spraying facility in 1950. Earlier available Sanborn maps (1895, 1906, and 1930) and aerial imagery (1924) do not indicate the presence of the building or uses of the property. Sanborn maps from 1968 and 1969 indicate that the building was occupied by a cellophane bag manufacturer and printing facility. Sanborn maps beginning in 1976 indicate that the building was used for manufacturing, however, no specific business name or operation type is provided on the maps. The Sanborn maps beginning in 1989 show the southern portion of the building as new construction dated 1988; aerial imagery from 1984 (southern portion not present) and 1994 (southern portion present) confirm the 1988 building expansion. This newer section is the portion of the building that is currently occupied by ATS Lighting.

Review of the available city directories indicate that the following companies occupying the subject property (i.e., street address 2569 Shell Road):

Year	Facility Listing
2005	ATS Lighting Inc Coffee Charm Corp
2014	Little Italy Outlet
2014	ATS Lighting Incorporated
2017	Little Italy Outlet
2017	ATS Lighting Inc

On September 3, 2020, Weston Solutions, Inc. (WESTON®) Region 2 Site Assessment Team (SAT) performed an off-site reconnaissance at Dene. Region 2 SAT confirmed the facility is one subdivided single-story brick building. According to the signage on the building, the original, northern section consists of a vacant space and a dance studio, while the newer, southern section houses ATS Lighting and Little Italy Furniture Liquidation Outlet. A door into the southern section of the building is labeled "Dene's Lamp Factory Outlet". At the time of the reconnaissance, the combined ATS Lighting/Little Italy storefront was closed, with both a roll-up door and entrance door locked. The hours posted at the facility claimed the storefront would be open at the time. Region 2 SAT could not see into the building to confirm if the storefront remains occupied, and no workers were observed entering or leaving the facility. The facility is bordered to the south by a bowling alley that is open to the public. A dance studio occupies a portion of the building, north of ATS Lighting, followed by a vacant commercial storefront. The entire site footprint is paved with asphalt or concrete, with the exception of a small grassy vegetated area at the rear of the facility (at the east). There is no resource use of soil at the property. The property is bordered to the east by residential apartment buildings separated from the property by a concrete berm and fence. There are no groundwater wells located at the property. No stains, pooled liquids, oils, or unlabeled containers were observed at the property. There is a single roll-off dumpster for trash located at the north side of the property along the vacant storefront. Topography at the site is generally flat. Stormwater runoff is directed to stormwater/sewer drains located on the eastern side of Shell Road, approximately 20 feet north of the site, and 80 feet south of the site. Appendix B includes the logbook and photo documentation from the reconnaissance activities.

The former Dene facility is located 2,476 feet (0.47 mile) north-northeast of Coney Island Creek, and within the creek's watershed. During the off-site reconnaissance activities, fishing for human consumption was observed in the western portion of the creek at the Kaiser Park fishing pier. Combined and separated municipal sewers in the area of the site are known to discharge to Coney Island Creek. The majority of Coney Island Creek has been channelized with bulkheading and riprap. The lower (western) portion of the creek is lined with obstructions, including shipwrecks, old barges, pilings, and construction debris. The upper (eastern) portion of the creek is reported to contain abandoned cars and boats, pilings, and other urban refuse. Increases in urbanization and impermeable surfaces have increased stormwater runoff to the creek and significantly reduced or eliminated tidal marshes or other buffer zones that could absorb the extra load. According to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), Coney Island Creek receives 290 million gallons of discharges per year through permitted CSO outfalls and more than a million gallons of stormwater runoff per year.

Environmental characterizations of Coney Island Creek indicate that creek sediments are contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), BTEX compounds (i.e., benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene), and inorganic constituents (such as arsenic and lead). The inorganic constituents are typical contaminants in releases from electroplating operations such as those which

took place at the former Dene facility. Dene generated large quantities of plating bath solutions, which likely would have contained these heavy metals. Furthermore, there is a long history of manufacturing at the subject property. BTEX compounds are created and used during the processing of consumer goods such as paints and lacquers, thinners, inks, and adhesives. Lacquer spraying and cellophane bag printing are known to have occurred at the subject property. Combined and separated municipal sewers in the area of the former facility are known to discharge to the creek, though the precise location of the outfall carrying waters from the Dene site is not currently known.

Despite the impaired nature of the Coney Island Creek, it is utilized for a variety of recreational activities, including boating and birding. Four city parks are located adjacent to the western portion of the creek near the mouth at Gravesend Bay, with a combined 1.1 miles of shoreline of varying accessibility. Although not an officially sanctioned use of the creek, primary contact in the form of swimming and baptisms have been reported along the sandy southwestern shoreline of the creek near Gravesend Bay. Although the presence of chemical and biological contamination in the creek is well-known, Coney Island Creek is fished for human consumption. Species of fish caught for consumption include mullet, porgy, striped bass, fluke, and bluefish. There is one permanent residence situated directly on the creek shoreline, as well as multiple encampments for homeless people. Coney Island Creek is situated within the core area of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary. Sensitive environments subject to potential contamination along the 15-mile surface water pathway for the Dene site include habitat known to be used by three Federal-designated and six State-designated endangered or threatened species, approximately 49.38 miles of wetland frontage, and the Gateway National Recreation Area.

The Dene site is underlain by glacial outwash deposits of sand, gravel, and clay; however, groundwater is not known to be a source of drinking water within 4 miles of the site. The nearest residence borders the site directly to the east. Approximately 993,779 people reside within 4 miles of the site. Sensitive environments within 4 miles include approximately 106.82 acres of HRS-eligible wetlands, and state protected natural areas including NYSDEC Natural Heritage sites, NYSDEC Critical Environmental Areas, and Hudson River Significant Biodiversity Areas.

References for the information presented above are included in **Appendix C**.

Part 1 - Superfund Eligibility Evaluation

If all answers are "no" go on to Part 2, otherwise proceed to Part 3.	YES	NO
1. Is the site currently in CERCLIS or an "alias" of another site?	\boxtimes	
2. Is the site being addressed by some other remedial program (Federal, State, or Tribal)?		×
3. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site regulated under a statutory exclusion (e.g., petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, synthetic gas usable for fuel, normal application of fertilizer, release located in a workplace, naturally occurring, or regulated by the NRC, UMTRCA, or OSHA)?		
4. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site excluded by policy considerations (i.e., deferred to RCRA corrective action)?		×
5. Is there sufficient documentation to demonstrate that no potential for a release that could cause adverse environmental or human health impacts exists (e.g., comprehensive remedial investigation equivalent data showing no release above ARARs, completed removal action, documentation showing that no hazardous substance releases have occurred, or an EPA approved risk assessment completed)?		☒

Please explain all "yes" answer(s).

The EPA ID No. is NYR000022087; the site is not currently on the National Priorities List (NPL).

Part 2 - Initial Site Evaluation

proximity to the site?

For Part 2, if information is not available to make a "yes" or "no" response, further investigation may be needed. In these cases, determine whether an APA is appropriate. Exhibit 1 parallels the questions in Part 2. Use Exhibit 1 to make decisions in Part 3.

If the answer is "no" to any of questions 1, 2, or 3, proceed directly to Part 3.			
1. Does the site have a release or a potential to release?	⊠		
2. Does the site have uncontained sources containing CERCLA-eligible substances?			
3. Does the site have documented on-site, adjacent, or nearby targets?	×		
If the answers to questions 1, 2, and 3 above were all "yes" then answer the questions below before proceeding to Part 3.	YES	NO	
4. Does documentation indicate that a target (e.g., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site?		×	
5. Is there an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site?		×	
6. Is there an apparent release and no documented on-site targets or targets immediately adjacent to the site, but there are nearby targets (e.g., targets within 1 mile)?		×	
7. Is there no indication of a hazardous substance release, and there are uncontained sources containing	×		

EXHIBIT 1 SITE ASSESSMENT DECISION GUIDELINES FOR A SITE

CERCLA hazardous substances, but there is a potential to release with targets present on site or in

Exhibit 1 identifies different types of site information and provides some possible recommendations for further site assessment activities based on that information. You will use Exhibit 1 in determining the need for further action at the site, based on the answers to the questions in Part 2. Please use your professional judgment when evaluating a site. Your judgment may be different from the general recommendations for a site given below.

Suspected/Documented Site Conditions	APA	Full PA	PA/SI	SI	
1. There are no releases or potential to relea	Yes	No	No	No	
2. No uncontained sources with CERCLA-opresent on site.	Yes	No	No	No	
3. There are no on-site, adjacent, or nearby targets.		Yes	No	No	No
4. There is documentation indicating that a target (e.g., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has	Option 1: APA →SI	Yes	No	No	Yes
been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site.	Option 2: N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

5. There is an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site.	Option 1: APA →SI Option 2: N/A	Yes N/A	No N/A	No N/A	Yes N/A
6. There is an apparent release and no docur and no documented targets immediately adjuthere are nearby targets. Nearby targets are located within 1 mile of the site and have a likelihood of exposure to a hazardous substasite.	No	No	No	Yes	
7. There is no indication of a hazardous sub- are uncontained sources containing CERCL substances, but there is a potential to release site or in proximity to the site.	No	No	No	Yes	

Part 3 - EPA Site Assessment Decision

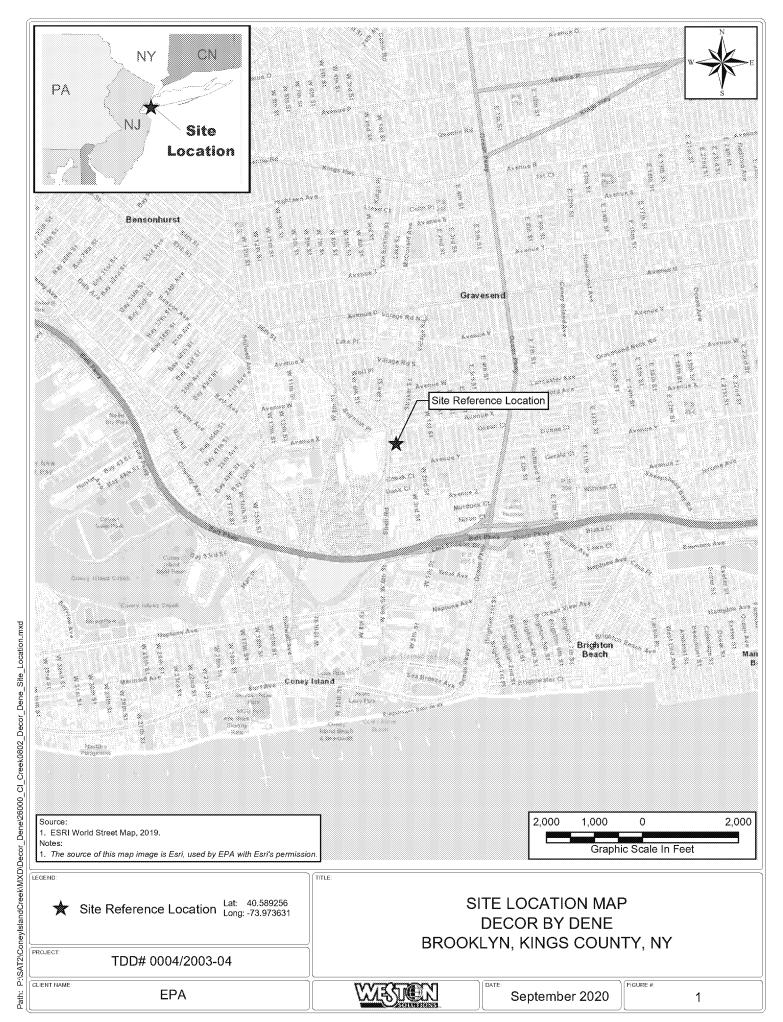
When completing Part 3, use Part 2 and Exhibit 1 to select the appropriate decision. For example, if the answer to question 1 in Part 2 was "no," then an APA may be performed and the "NFRAP" box below should be checked. Additionally, if the answer to question 4 in Part 2 is "yes," then you have two options (as indicated in Exhibit 1): Option 1 --conduct an APA and check the "Lower Priority SI" or "Higher Priority SI" box below; or Option 2 -- proceed with a combined PA/SI assessment.

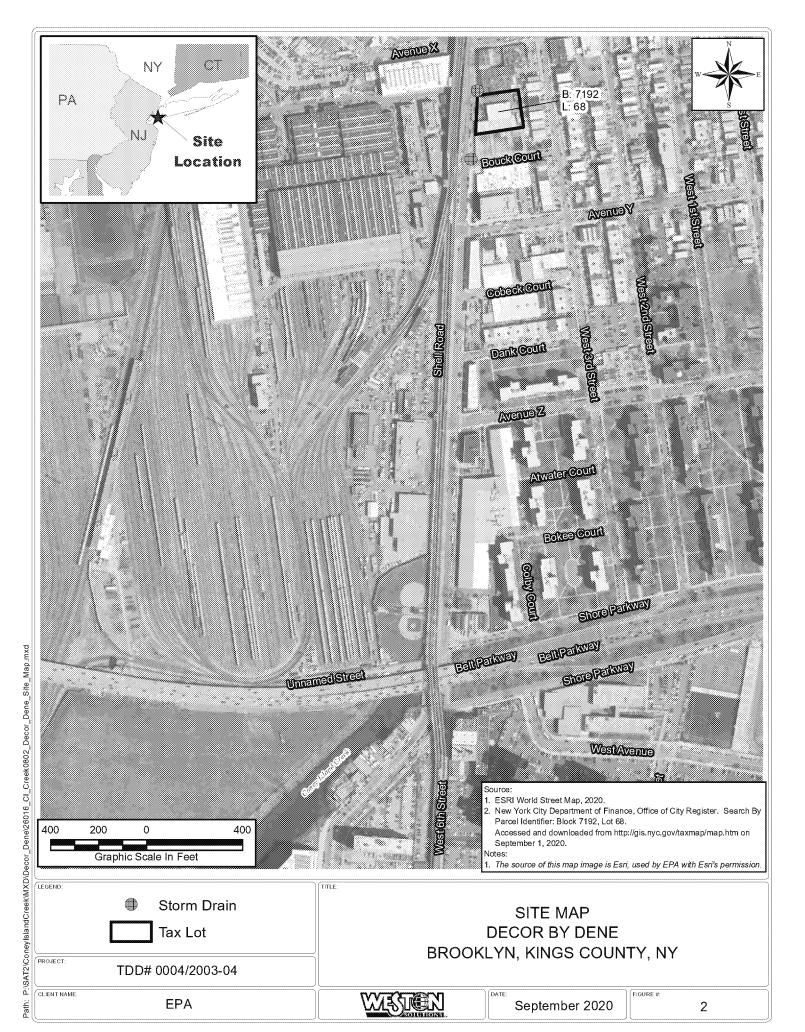
Check the box that applies based on the conclusions of the APA:

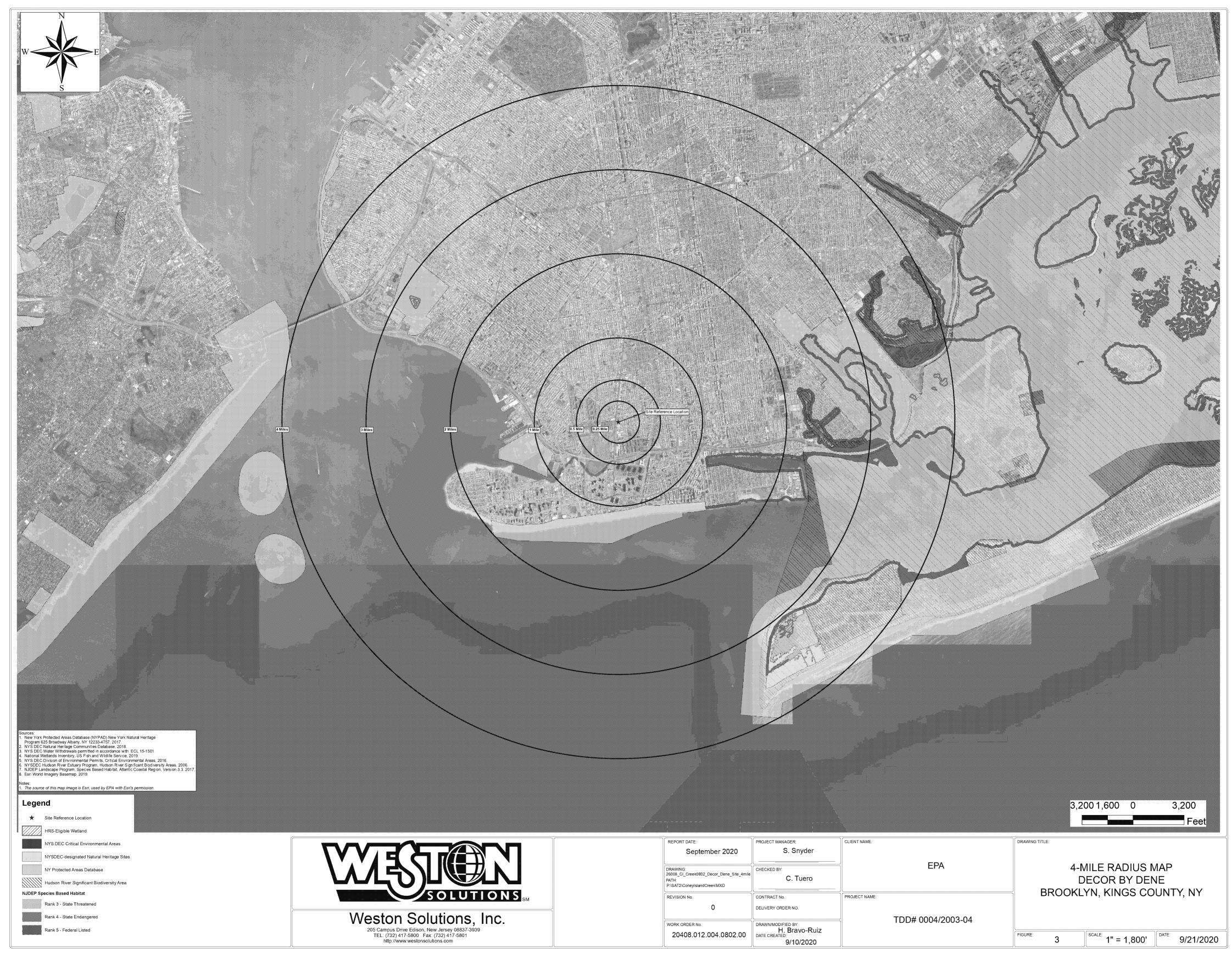
	NFRAP		Refer to Removal Program - further site a	ssessment needed
\boxtimes	Higher Priority SI		Refer to Removal Program - NFRAP	
	Lower Priority SI		Site is being addressed as part of another	CERCLIS site
	Defer to RCRA Subtitle C		Other:	
	Defer to NRC		<i>(</i>	
Regional EPA Reviewer:		James D	esir Lama Cesi	9/24/2020
		Print Name/Si	gnature	Date

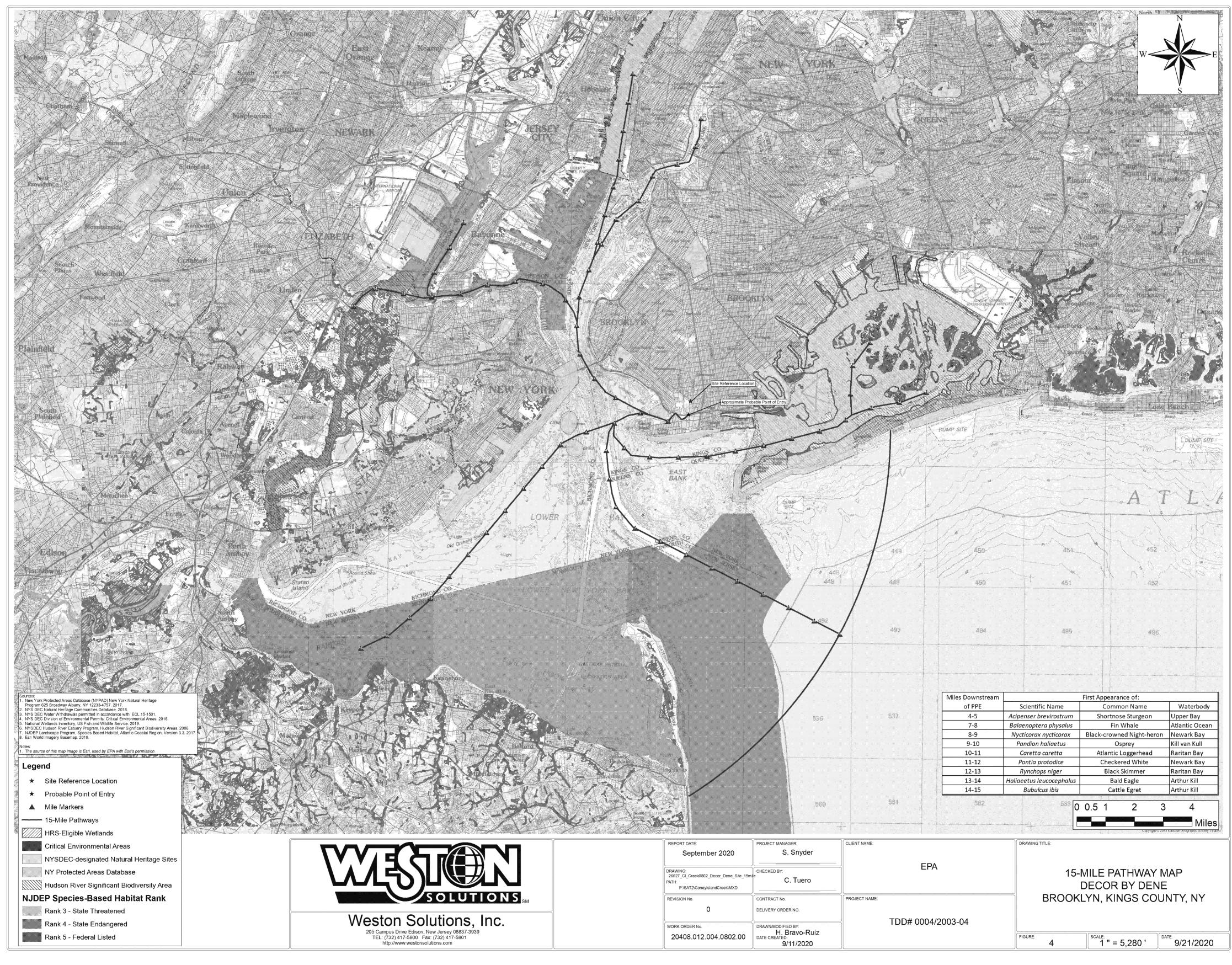
PLEASE EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE FOR YOUR DECISION: The Higher Priority SI decision is based on the site having a potential to release and the presence of nearby targets. Specifically, the decision is based on a long history of manufacturing and electroplating activity at the site, which included the generation of hazardous wastes; contaminants commonly associated with electroplating and manufacturing activities being known contaminants of concern in creek sediments; the possible transmission of contaminants via combined and separated sewer systems from the site to Coney Island Creek, which is a fishery and part of the core area of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary; and the presence of additional sensitive environments within the 15-mile target distance limit (TDL).

	Document Control No.: W0802.1A.02365
APPENDIX A	
FIGURES	









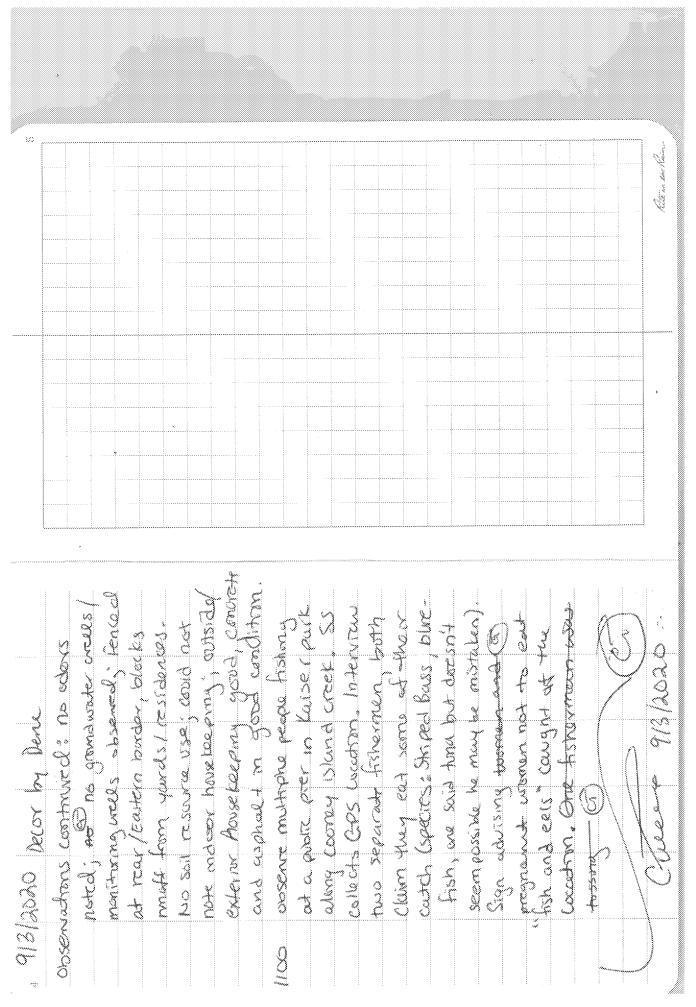
	Document Control No.: W0802.1A.02365
APPENDIX B LOGBOOK AND PHOTO DOCUME	NTATION

DECOR BY DENE



Site Labout

DCN: WOSOZ, 3B. OZ335



ED_014223_00000170-00014



Photo No. 1: Sign for "Lighting Factory Outlet" at 2569 Shell Road, looking east while standing on the sidewalk bordering the building. Building previously occupied by Décor by Dene.

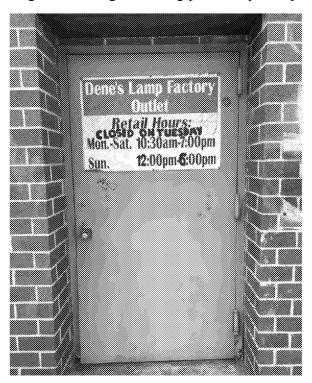


Photo No. 2: A door on the exterior western wall has a sign indicating "Dene" formerly occupied the building; looking east.

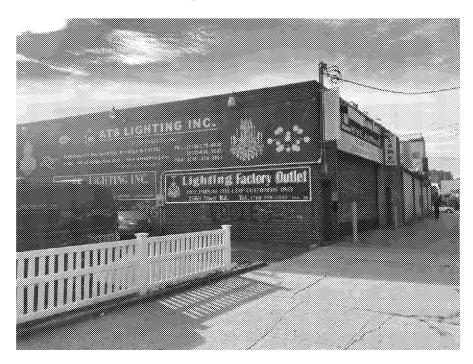


Photo No. 3: Signs for the retail lighting business on the northern wall of the building name the business "ATS Lighting Inc."; looking southeast while standing on sidewalk in front of building.



Photo No. 4: The retail lighting store occupies a one story brick building, and is bordered to the north by an asphalt parking lot, a dance studio, and a vacant commercial space. The building is surrounded by concrete and asphalt surfaces (sidewalks and parking areas). Looking east, standing across Shell Road.



Photo No. 5: Parking lot and businesses bordering ATS Lighting Inc. to the north; one roll off dumpster located on the northern side of the building; looking east, standing across Shell Road.



Photo No. 6: Nearest storm sewer located on the eastern side of Shell Road, north of the site; topography is generally flat; looking south.

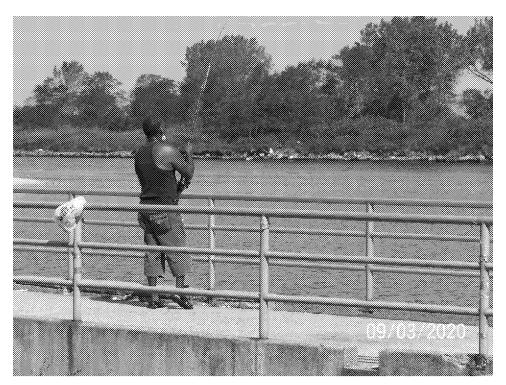




Photo Nos. 7 and 8: Multiple persons were observed to be fishing for consumption along the south side of Coney Island Creek at the Kaiser Park fishing pier. According to these residents, species of fish caught for consumption include blue fish, striped bass, and flounder. Resident at the far end of the pier was using both a fishing pole and a net.

	Document Control No.: W0802.1A.02365
APPENDIX C	
REFERENCES	

REFERENCES

- 1. Environmental Data Resources (EDR). <u>The EDR Radius Map™ Report with Geocheck®</u>, <u>Décor By Dene</u>, <u>2569 Shell Road</u>, <u>Brooklyn</u>, <u>NY 11223</u>, <u>Inquiry Number: 6175980.2s</u>. September 1, 2020. [520 pages]
- 2. EDR. Certified Sanborn® Map Report, Décor By Dene, 2569 Shell Road, Brooklyn, NY 11223, Inquiry Number: 6175980.3. September 1, 2020. [41 pages]
- 3. EDR. The EDR City Directory Abstract, Décor By Dene, 2569 Shell Road, Brooklyn, NY 11223, Inquiry Number: 6175980.5. September 1, 2020. [10 pages]
- 4. EDR. The EDR Aerial Photo Decade Package, Décor By Dene, 2569 Shell Road, Brooklyn, NY 11223, Inquiry Number: 6175980.8. September 1, 2020. [14 pages]
- 5. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). <u>List of Large Quantity Generators in the United States, The National Biennial RCRA Hazardous Waste Report (Based on 1997 Data) (excerpts).</u> September 1999. [3 pages]
- 6. EPA Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO). <u>Detailed Facility Report: Décor by Dene, Shell Rd, Brooklyn, NY 11223</u>. Accessed and downloaded from https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110064261971 on September 15, 2020. [5 pages]
- 7. EPA Envirofacts. <u>RCRAInfo Facility Information</u>, <u>Décor by Dene</u>, <u>Handler ID: NYR000022087</u>. Accessed and downloaded from https://enviro.epa.gov/enviro/rcrainfoquery_3.facility_information?pgm_sys_id=NYR000022087 on September 22, 2020. [3 pages]
- 8. New York Department of Finance, Office of City Register. <u>Search Results By Parcel: Block 7192, Lot 68</u>. Accessed and downloaded from http://gis.nyc.gov/taxmap/map.htm on September 1, 2020. [2 pages]
- 9. Queensland Government, Department of Environment and Science. <u>BTEX chemicals.</u> Accessed and downloaded from https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/management/activities/non-mining/fraccing/btex-chemicals#:~:text=BTEX on September 16, 2020. [3 pages]
- 10. California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control. <u>Investigation and Remediation of Plating Facilities (excerpts).</u> May 2011. [11 pages]
- 11. Strehlau-Howay, Lindsey, et al., Pace University. <u>The NYC Social Assessment: Understanding Waterfront Users, Coney Island Creek Waterfront Profile</u>. 2019. [48 pages]
- 12. Kensinger, Nathan, Curbed, New York. <u>Coney Island's Untamed Creek, Caught Between Pas & Future.</u> November 20, 2014. [19 pages]
- 13. United States Geological Survey (USGS). Water-Table Altitude in Kings and Queens Counties, New York, in March 1997 (Fact Sheet FS 134-97). November 1997. [2 pages]
- 14. Tuero, Caroline, WESTON. <u>Project Note to the Décor by Dene Site File, Subject: Internet Search Google Street View. September 23, 2020. [9 pages]</u>
- 15. ATS Lighting. <u>About Us.</u> Accessed and downloaded from https://www.atslighting.net/about-us on September 23, 2020. [1 page]